

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Venue: Leangkollen Hotel, Asker, Norway

On: Saturday 6 March 2010

Minutes Administrative Council

Present: Lenka Bosanska CZECH REPUBLIC, Lubos Kotik CZECH REPUBLIC, Karena Grundy EJM, Silvia Malosio EJM, Roger Duckitt Wellesley ENGLAND, Raza Tanzeem ENGLAND, Kim Pettersson-Fernholm FINLAND, Daniel Sereni FRANCE, Xavier Roux France, Johannes Koebberling GERMANY, Petra-Maria, Schumm-Draeger GERMANY, Alexis Mueller-Marbach GERMANY, Tommy Ressopoulos GREECE (PCO), Runolfur Palsson ICELAND, Moshe Vardi ISRAEL, Haim Bitterman ISRAEL, Dror Dicker ISRAEL, Lorenzo Dagna ITALY, Massimiliano Anzaldi ITALY, Ieva Ruza LATVIA, Viktorija Matuleviciene LITHUANIA, Knut Lundin NORWAY, Monica Bivol NORWAY, Anna Teresa Kotulska POLAND, Eugene Joseph Kucharz POLAND, Faustino Ferreira PORTUGAL, Carla Araújo PORTUGAL, Ana-Maria Vintila ROMANIA, Valentin Kokorin RUSSIA, Andrey Spassky RUSSIA, Andrej Dukat SLOVAKIA, Martin Caprnda SLOVAKIA, Primoz Vidali SLOVENIA, Radovan Hojs SLOVENIA, Ramón Pujol Farriols SPAIN, Melchor Alvarez de Mon Soto SPAIN, Javier Garcia Alegria SPAIN, Beatriz Roson Hernandez SPAIN, Blanca Pinilla Llorente SPAIN, Philippe Jaeger SWITZERLAND, Werner Bauer SWITZERLAND, Harry van Hulsteijn THE NETHERLANDS, Jan Willem Elte THE NETHERLANDS, Franck Bosch THE NETHERLANDS, Nel Geelhoed-Duijvestijn THE NETHERLANDS, Erdal Akalin TURKEY, Ozan Yacizi TURKEY, Colin Semple UEMS, Deepak Bhatia UK
Caroline Gutierrez EFIM Secretariat (Minutes)

1. Apologies and Welcome (W Bauer)

Apologies were received from: Guy Decaux MD PhD BELGIUM, Alain Soupart BELGIUM, Isabel Van Dorpe BELGIUM, Patrick Lacor BELGIUM, Karel Horky DrSc., FACP (Hon.) CZECH REPUBLIC, Colm Quigley EIRE, Christopher Davidson ENGLAND, Clare Higgins ENGLAND, Margus Lember ESTONIA, Ilkka Pörsti FINLAND, Noora Ritamäki FINLAND, Bernard Grosbois FRANCE, Nicholas Katsilambros GREECE, Sotirios Raptis GREECE, Maria Domenica Cappellini ITALY, Hanne Thurmer NORWAY, Daniela Toporan ROMANIA, Ion Bruckner ROMANIA, Dan Isacoff ROMANIA, Branko Lovic SERBIA, Radmila Zivkovic SERBIA, Dragan Lovic SERBIA, Thomas Kjellström SWEDEN, Stefan Lindgren SWEDEN, Mikael Kohler SWEDEN, Verena Briner SWITZERLAND, Mark Kramer THE NETHERLANDS, Mine Durusu Tanriover TURKEY, Serhat Unal TURKEY, J Rhidian Dowdle UK, Philip Dyer UK

Werner Bauer welcomed the following new delegates: Dror Dicker (Israel), Franck Bosch (The Netherlands), Valentin Kokorin and Andrey Spassky (Russia), Radovan Hojs (Slovenia), as well as saluted all the young internists present in the room following the first assembly of the group the previous day.

2. Draft Minutes of Administrative Council, Amsterdam 31/10/2009 for approval (W Bauer)

The minutes were approved.

3. Candidacy for membership: Russia

V Kokorin presented the candidacy of the Russian Society of Internal Medicine, a Society that celebrated its hundredth birthday last year. The society is composed of doctors whose main specialty is internal medicine, with sometimes additional subspecialty qualifications. These internists are mostly working within polyclinics. With 950 members the society is the only body representing internists across Russia. However, only about a 10th of internists in Russia are

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members of the society due to the difficulties of communicating with the most isolated regions, but the Russian society ambitions to increase this representation in the coming years. **Following this presentation (enclosed 1) the Administrative Council voted unanimously for the Russian society to join EFIM. Congratulations.**

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4. Upcoming Meetings (congresses, high level meeting...)

W Bauer started by deeply regretting that the EFIM Congress has been cancelled by the Swedish society of internal medicine. In December, W Bauer was contacted by the Swedish Society to discuss the very bad financial situation of the upcoming Congress, and the internal tensions between the Congress Committee and the Board in Sweden.

Although EFIM did not accept to share a potential loss of 150,000 euros, the Executive Committee offered all the help possible.

Despite this offer, the Swedish board decided to cancel the congress, the first Congress to be cancelled in EFIM history, and sadly added to this catastrophe by communicating their decision without coordinating with EFIM.

To answer questions on sanctions, W Bauer explained that during the meeting of the Executive Committee the day before the situation was discussed and a new congress planning document is being prepared and will be communicated shortly. The cancellation penalties will be mentioned there. Furthermore, an agreement will be signed between EFIM and the national society to ensure the terms are fully understood.

Many participants commented that unfortunately the economic situation is not going to improve, and sponsorship money will be more and more difficult to rise. This could potentially endanger plans for a yearly congress, and it was suggested to reconsider.

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Others however felt that it was the mission of EFIM to continue raise industry awareness on the importance of the internist in prescribing treatments, and eventually money will come.

One way could be to select every year a few main topics (subspecialties) to increase the motivation of industry to support our congress.

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It is of course the hope that Congresses in Greece, Spain and Czech Republic will be good

For the 2014 congress, the Executive Committee received word from Ireland of their will to bid, but as C Quigley was ill, he could not be present. The decision on Congress 2014 will therefore be taken in the fall. Any other society willing to bid is welcome to do so.

In order to offer some replacement to the congress, different solutions were examined.

The first one was to organise a smaller event in Sweden but this option was not picked by the Swedish National Society.

The Executive Committee saw a chance to organise a pilot scientific symposium in the fall, earlier than initially planned (2011). W Bauer received an offer from the Swiss Society to host the meeting in Lucerne, as the venue for the event could be allocated at no cost.

The suggested dates for the meeting are 24 and 25 September 2010, and will include in addition to a normal EFIM administrative Council meeting, update talks and panel discussions. (see enclosed presentation)

The event was accepted and strongly supported by the Administrative Council.

- **EFIM 9 Athens:** Tommy Ressopoulos presented some updates on the Congress (see enclosed 3)

He strongly encouraged National Societies to advertise the Congress to their members and distributed some marketing pieces in this respect.

Concerns were raised in the assembly by the higher registration fees (over 500 euros).

These comments will be taken into consideration and rates re-examined.

Another issue raised was the fact the Greek national Congress will precede EFIM. Therefore Greek participants willing to attend both meetings will need to plan for a whole week away from their work. It might be an issue and they might choose not to come. It however seems that this is not a problem in Greece, and the organisers still aim at 1500 participants.

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- **EFIM 10 Madrid:** Javier Garcia Alegria presented progress on the organisation (see enclosed 4).

Concerns were however raised on the fact that the Congress changes dates every year. Consistency would be better to make it a real brand.

5. EFIM Strategies and Projects

W Bauer presented the progress on the strategies and projects that were presented in Amsterdam 5 months before. (see enclosed 5):

- Increase visibility and communication with national societies: The mail service has started but was not met with much enthusiasm. National Societies are strongly invited to resend an invite to their members.
- Increase contact with subspecialties: First contacts were taken on an individual base.
- Create a panel workshop per year: We plan a first panel in autumn 2010.
- Start a (high level) update course, 2011, 100 - 200 participants: The project work has started.
- EJIM: Publish „duplo-editorials“ (1 general internist, 1 specialist): Intensified cooperation EC/EiCh, quality improving.
- ESIM: Run a second school/year (January 2011): First winter school in January 2011 in Saas Fee (CH)
- Change fellowship criteria, create awards: Direct fellowship proposal on the agenda
- Young internists: create an assembly, give structures: The first Assembly of the Young Internists took place in Oslo
- Restructure and develop website: this is under way.

W Bauer then presented the revamped fellowship programme. The current programme is not working well and it would be good to create a group and form a network of excellent, competent, motivated internists, provide a specific identity, have them join the ranks of EFIM and give them specific benefits.

The initial requirements exposed in the proposal were as follows:

- Board certified internists
- Professional experience of min. 3 years after training
- Experience in teaching a/o publishing a/o research
- Signed declaration: EFIM document, ACP/EFIM charter, commitment to continuous education and quality improvement
- Ready to work for EFIM a/o national society
- Supporting letter (EFIM member society)
- Annual fee (around 90 Euros; must sign up for 3 years)

The benefits:

- May add the letters FEFIM to his professional title
- Diploma (representative design)
- Pin
- Subscription EJIM
- Subscription PIER (?) or Cochrane (?) or (?)
- Special information by „EFIMfellowmail“,
- Listed in the „Index of fellows of EFIM“ (website) as an excellent internist
- Annual Fellows Lunch (Congress) with committee members and special guests
- Annual Congress: „Fellows Lecture“
- Special conditions if there will be special events (update meetings, fundraisers etc.)

A discussion followed during which was discussed the opening of fellowship to non-Europeans, the minimal professional experience requirements, and the maximal number of fellows. It was also asked whether the national societies would have a say in the acceptance of a fellow. The answer to that is that candidates will be asked to submit a recommendation letter from their national society to ensure that the national relationship is preserved.

The Administrative Council voted in favour of the the adoption of the new programme, with a minimum of 3 years of experience, no limitation on the total number, and a suggestion to offer a 3 year rate at the price of two to encourage long-term commitment.

The proposal will be redrafted and presented at the next meeting.

6. Communication issues: Website

C Gutierrez presented the updates on the website refurbishing:

- The contract with Santor has been terminated
 - A new provider will set up a content management system, making the website entirely controlled from EFIM.
 - The set up was delayed by Santor, but the new website should be up at the end of March
- Suggestions from the Administrative Council included adding a RSS feed and videos of the congresses.

C Gutierrez reminded the Administrative Council to encourage their members to communicate with EFIM in order to build a solid database of contacts for initiatives and congresses.

7. EJIM

K Grundy presented the latest achievements of the journal (see enclosed presentation 6)

- New Editor in Chief - Professor Pier Mannucci
 - New editorial policy to acquire quality articles from all countries within Europe
- Editorial Board Changes - faster peer review process
- Publication of 1st Impact Factor 1.045
- Faster publication times
- Supplement - increased exposure of EJIM
- Editorial Strategy meeting held in Amsterdam, February 2010
- Future focus
 - Acquiring accreditation for online e-learning modules
 - Case Report online repository

8. Working groups: reports and future

European board of Internal Medicine

R Palsson presented an update on EBIM (enclosed presentation 7)

The European Board of Internal Medicine is a joint venture between EFIM and the UEMS Section of Internal Medicine. Three representatives are nominated from each organization. The role and projects of the EBIM are similar to those of the Competencies Working Group. At the EFIM Administrative Council Meeting in Amsterdam in October of last year it was decided to merge the Competencies Working Group and the EBIM.

Upcoming projects include:

- Specific competencies of the European internist
- European curriculum in internal medicine
- Competency-based
- Broad and relatively brief with emphasis on problems and issues that are common to most or all countries in Europe
- A writing committee should be formed with participation from most or all European countries
- Assessment of internal medicine trainees and practicing internists in Europe

Quality of care: Following the discussion in Amsterdam, the feasibility study proposed was reviewed to integrate the comments from the audience, and is now ready to be launched in 3 dutch hospital.

H Van Huljsteijn formally asked for funding from EFIM, as the project cost is 10.000 euros. EFIM accepted to fund half, and NIV offered the second half.

It was suggested to ask national societies for funding for specific projects if needed, and if interest is met.

Professional issues: There was no meeting of the group in Oslo. The document will be published soon in the Journal and was distributed to all.

Exchange Programme working group: A document was distributed, but as A Baptista was not present it was difficult to comment. D Sereni remarked however that despite a general

agreement on a grant there was no set contribution from FDIME and he was surprised to see it advertised. Clarification will be sought on this programme.

9. Young Internists

R Duckitt presented the progress report on the Young Internists (see enclosed presentation)

- The first assembly of the Young Internists took place the day before and was met with great success. Discussions included organisation of the group, selection process, links with national groups, research opportunities and working groups representation.
- The YI Research group consists in an on-going development of a Research Network with a database of over 800 Young Internists.

Projects include :

CDIME 2009 - Common Diagnoses in IM in Europe

- Considering role in ALCHIMIE
- Member on the Scientific Board

- Young Internists are also working on the next congress and eCME

10. ESIM

The Winter school will take place from January 16 to 22, 2011 in Saas Fee. More will be announced during summer time and in Lucerne.

R Duckitt presented the upcoming Summer School in Brighton from 4 to 10 July at Sussex university campus (see enclosed presentation).

Questions were raised about the possibility to get the school accredited for continuous education.

In some countries it is not a problem as all activities organised by certain organisations, including EFIM, are accepted for CPD.

For some countries, the solution could be to have a letter describing the programme very well in advance to be approved by the national board.

11. Alchimie project (R Pujol)

Beatrix Roson presented the ALCHIMIE study project (see enclosed).

As a lot of countries had difficulties to respond, and as the congress is cancelled a new timetable was suggested:

March 2010

- Contact with National Societies/Young Internists
- List of participating Countries and National Coordinators

June 2010

- Revision of hospital applications
- Definitive list of Investigators and Hospitals
- Definitive version of project 3.0

July 2010

- Presentation to Ethics Committees

September 2010

- Approval by Ethics Committees
- Investigators agreements and deliver of access to Database

October 2010

- First phase

November 2010

- Second phase

March 2011

- Data available to be presented in the Athens Meeting

Documents will be sent once more to all.

12. Foundation (D Sereni)

D Sereni presented an update on the work of the foundation (see enclosed).

Income was received from:

EFIM		5000
Amgen	10	000
Servier	10	000
Pierre Bergé	100 000	

FDIME will allocate in exchange 10.000 eur to the Alchimie Project, bursaries to the school, and financing for the exchange programme.

The grant allocated from Pierre Bergé shall be used for research on rare diseases in adults.

In addition , on the 22nd of October, FDIME will organise a benefit gala to raise additional money for this research at the Salle Pleyel in Paris. Prestigious opera singers have accepted to participate in this charity concert and all national societies are invited to publicise this event.

W Bauer thanked D Sereni for his support and underlined how important having the right person with the right relationships at the head of the foundation was.

13. Clinical Research Course

D Sereni presented an overview of all the Clinical Research Courses that took place over the past 6 years (see enclosed presentation).

The programme was cancelled this year due to internal financial problems at Servier. It is hoped to find a new sponsor for this programme.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on September 25 in Lucerne (Switzerland)

15. Any other items

Elections will take place during the next meeting. Invitation to apply for a position will be issued at the beginning of April.

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